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The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian

No. 342. MARCH, 1935.

"JUSTICE. TRUTH. COMPASSION.

"Speaking the Truth in love."—EPH IV. 15.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Report of the Ulster Unitarian Christian Association shows a record of work well done, especially in connection with the Postal Mission. The Rev. Percival Godding is in charge of this department, and contributes information about books to this magazine, which should be useful to enquirers.

* * *

The objects of the Association are (1) to maintain the sufficiency of the Holy Scriptures as a Rule of Faith; (2) to diffuse a knowledge of the Christian Revelation based on the sole Deity of God the Father, and the Divine Mission and Authority of the Lord Jesus Christ; (3) to defend the Right of Private Judgment, the Sacredness of Religious Liberty, and the supreme importance of the Christian Life; and (4) to promote the Religious Education of the young, especially through the instrumentality of the Sunday School."

* * *

Although this important activity emanated from the Association of N S. Presbyterian and other Free Christian Congregations, it is a self-contained body, and as such has no official connection with the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church, many of whose members belong to it, as they also may belong to Freemasonry, or the Bible Society, or any other society. The Annual Meeting is held on the second Monday in April. Under its auspices is the Depository, 35 Rosemary Street, Belfast, where there is a table full of pamphlets for free distribution.

* * *

THE Divine Unity forms the foundation of Religion all the world over. The systems which have been built up in each Great Religion, are only super-structures, on the same foundation. Hinduism has as one of its schools of philosophy one that is purely Unitarian. Hence there are a Hindu Unitarianism, a Muhammadan Unitarianism and a Christian Unitarianism, not to speak of others. As is well known, the name "Unitarian" originally meant "Muhammadan." John Wesley so uses it in his hymn; his belief being that all religions outside Christianity were "possessions by evil spirits." Christian Unitarianism or Unitarian Christianity has its own unique work in the world, as well as its special contribution to Christian doctrine, as is generally recognised by liberal Christians of various denominations.

THE DIVINE WISDOM.

Also unto Thee, O Lord, belongeth mercy; for Thou rendereth to every man according to his work.—Ps. lxii. 12.

SUBSIDY FUND.

Contributions should be addressed to the Manager, Rev.A.Davison, Dromore, by whom they will be gratefully acknowledged.

Published on the **Fifth** Saturday of the month. Copy should be in before the **23rd** at the latest. Editor: Rev. John Barron, Ballywalter, Co. Down.

"In Elohim are three degrees, and each degree by itself alone; and yet notwithstanding they are all one, and joined together in One, and cannot be divided from each other."
—Rabbi Simeon ben Jochai.

TEMPERANCE.

LESSON II.—ALCOHOL AND LIFE.

Alcohol is consumed largely as a beverage in most countries, and by all classes. It is accepted as a good creative of God, which adds to the satisfaction and happiness of existence, and is called in to promote friendship, to assuage sorrow, to deepen enjoyment, to preserve health, and to ward off the attacks of infectious disease. Confidence in its potency has been cherished from generation to generation, and only in recent times have doubts arisen and questions been asked as to the genuineness of the many claims put forward on its behalf. To-day the school master and the scientist are abroad, and many long-cherished beliefs are treated with scanty respect. Experiments have been made to discover the effects of alcohol on living cells, which are the foundation of all life, whether of the plant or the animal.

The results have been undoubted, and go to prove that alcohol is detrimental to the living cell. Plants and animals differ very much in complexity of structure and appearance, but all have sprung from a single cell, and all are composed in every organ and part of microscopic cells. There are very minute specks of jelly found in stagnant water, and examination shows that they are animals consisting of one cell. They are the simplest form of life known, and are injured by the smallest quantity of alcohol added to the water. A larger quantity will cause death. Tadpoles thrive and grow in water from the pond, but let ten drops of alcohol be added to each ounce of water ond growth is retarded to such an extent that in a short time they will not be more than half the size of the others.

"A gentleman one evening was drinking some wine and he thought it was sour. He poured out the wine into a flower pot on the table. Some days later he observed that the plant had withered and died. He could not understand it until his little boy reminded him of what he had done. He thought about it, and to see if it was correct he poured some wine, which he was satisfied was good, into another plant, and the same thing happened. The plant died. Now this gentleman knew plants were made of protoplasm, just as he was, and he said to himself: If alcoholic drinks can destroy the protoplasm of plants they can also destroy my protoplasm. He then gave up drinking wine." All cells are very much alike. If the seeds of cress or mustard be watered with water one hundredth part of which is alcohol they will be killed. The conclusion, therefore, seems to be inevitable that alcohol is injurious to living cells, that indeed it is a cell poison. The human body, fearfully and wonderfully made, consists throughout of living cells, and alcohol, when taken into the stomach, passes rapidly in the blood stream to every part of the system. It soon reaches the brain and interferes with what may be regarded as the highest quality of manhood, the power of self-control. It used to be considered a stimulant, and indeed is so regarded still by the man in the street. But science to-day tells us that such a view is mistaken. On this point the Medical Research Council in their book, "Alcohol: its action on the Human Organism," speaks decisively and authoritatively. "The apparent stimulation," they say, "is in the main, if not wholly, an effect of the narcotic influence of the drug, which dulls the drinker's perception of unpleasant conditions in himself and his surroundings, and may make him feel better, more efficient, and stronger than he really is. Effects which are apparently of a different character—effects such as the increased loquacity and free gesticulation produced by alcohol—which are usually interpreted by the drinker, if not by those about him, as evidences of stimulation, are really narcotic effects; the result from the removal of the control exercised by the higher nervous centres, a control which enables the individual to weigh his words and acts, and renders him self-critical and solicitous as to the impression he is making on other people. The removal of this control and the decrease of critical self-consciousness are in fact the most constant and characteristic effects of alcohol, whether in the moderate dose which diminishes restraint and imparts courage to the diffident speaker, or in the excessive dose which gives rise to the verbose diffuseness of drunkenness." Having reached the highest part of the brain, alcohol interferes with judgment. It causes loss of control of the emotions and feelings. Foolish things are said and done. At the same time there is an increase of self-confidence. Something important is forgotten. All movements are slowed down. Here is to be found the explanation of not a few of the lamentable accidents that are daily happening on the roads. A child suddenly appears in front of a car travelling at forty miles an hour. The driver has merely the fraction of a second to decide and to act. A sober man will apply his brakes in the fifth of a second. Double that time may be required if even a small quantity of alcohol has been imbibed. The difference means death to the child.

HISTORICAL NOTES.

The Second House now (All Soul's Church) Belfast.—Continued.

By H. J. F. Orr.

In 1839 a Day School was started in Castle Street, following the successful start of a Sunday School in same building

Amongst the Rules of the Congregation regarding the "Setting of Seats" in force in 1840, it is interesting to read of some of these seats being held by Lease or Debenture. Holders of Pews could sub-let on the approval of the Committee, but were liable to entire Pew Rent. The Seat holder was bound to return the name of each sub-tenant to the Clergyman within one month after granting such accommodation. Perhaps some of the older members of All Souls can say when Lease hold Seats were abolished. The Royal Academical Institution pupils had a seat reserved for them at that time and Pew 100 was set aside for Servants and others. Amongst the list of members one finds the names, John Millen, John Greenfield, Robert Neill (Jeweller), John Dunville, Mrs. E. Linden, John Benn,. Wm. McCaw, James Kennedy and John Ritchie.

Rev. J. C. Street was installed in 1871. In his pastorate of some nineteen years, he introduced many changes particularly in the Social life of the Congregation, the Mutual Improvement Association in 1872 particularly. This Association encouraged extempore speaking. The subjects debated were varied and as outsiders were welcomed, the discussions were often rather heated, but never too extreme. Then the Floral Service, a service which many other Churches in Belfast have since adopted, was inauguorated in the late 70's.

Mr. Street's successor, Edgar J. Fripp, first acted as pastor 1891-1900, and during this term All Souls' Church was built, and on October 11th, 1896, was opened by Rev. Joseph Wood of Birmingham.

Amongst many famous speakers heard in the Old 2nd House it is interesting to mention Frederick Douglas 1845. Baboo Protap Chunder Mozcomdar 1883, representing Brahmo Somaj, and in 1873 Rev. G. Vance Smith, Ph.D. of York. W. Hamilton Drummond of Warrington was installed in October 1900, resigning in 1909, followed by E. A. Voysey 1910-1911. E. H. Pickering 1912-1921, and the second term of Mr. Fripp's ministry followed 1921-1924. In 1926, the present minister, S. P. Whitehouse, B.A., took charge. The rather long vacancy of two years had affected the membership of the church, but the present minister entering into his office with zest and zeal, delivering thoughtful and well prepared addresses has gradually regained some of the lapsed membership in addition to new members.

Who was Mary Armstrong?

Going through some family papers, I came across an epistle written in 1857, at the end of the Crimea War, the writer after eulogising Florence Nightingale continues:—

"I forget to allude to another instance in another way of Unitarian female effort, and lest another opportunity might not offer, I now refer to the case which occurred during our struggle for the passing of the Dissenter's Chapels Bill. You will at once recollect the powerful effect produced by Mary Armstrong's statement of her case, and the robbery she would have suffered had the bill not passed. It should be remembered that she, aided by a number of Unitarian Liberal Christian female friends, wrote a letter to each of the 426 members of the House of Lords and to each of the 632 members of the House of Commons, stating her case in brief, strong and respectful terms each letter being signed Mary Armstrong and they were all posted in one day.

Thus about 1000 persons received a copy of the same letter on the same morning containing the best "Brief" that could have been placed in their hands to lead them to a right conclusion. Thus was also secured the reading of the letter throughout, as no one knew it was a circular. The common practice is only to read a printed circular as far as its heading goes. The effect it is said was astonishing and thanks to Sir. R. Peel, Mary Armstrong, Dr. Montgomery and many others the Bill was passed.

Could this Mary Armstrong be any connection of Rev. George Allman Armstrong, minister in Dublin from 1841 to 1889.—On the 19th July 1844, the Dissenter's Chapel Act became law.

May I suggest to the British League of Unitarian and Free-Christian Women, to endeavour to trace the history of Mary Armstrong and her work.

The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian can be obtained at the Depository, 35 Rosemary Street, Belfast.

OBITUARIES.

Miss Mary Jane Bailie.

The congregation of Killinchy regret to record the death of Miss Mary Jane Bailie of The Rocks, Ballyministra. She died on the 23rd January, and lived for more than four score of years. She was remembered as a constant worshipper in the Remonstrant Church, Killinchy, and known as a constant hearer and communicant at the Lord's Supper and as being in her pew during the greater part of the 85 years she lived among us, until increasing lassitude gave her the release she desired. Her fellow-worshippers sympathise greatly with her aged brother, Mr. James Bailie, and her sister, Miss Margaret Bailie, and wish them both a measure of peace, tranquility and prosperity until the end of their day. The funeral took place on January 25th from the home, when a large number of neighbours gathered to pay the last respects to one who was known and admired as a gentle soul. She was buried in the family burying-ground in the New Meeting House Green where so many of her family were laid to rest. The Rev. D. J. Williams officiated in the home and at the graveside.

Mr. William McBride, Lisbarnett, Killinchy.

The Killinchy congregation on Monday, 21st January, has suffered a grevious loss by the death of Mr. William McBride, a prominent supporter of our Church. All through his life he was an active member in all departments of our religious life. He served for many years on the Church Committee, was one of the elders of the Church, a communicant ever present at the Lord's Supper, and a dispenser of the Communion elements. Early on the above date our old friend and tried fellow-worshipper died at the age of 75 years. His doctor had urged him to undergo an operation at Newtownards Hospital which was successfully performed, but later pneumonia supervened, which at the last resulted in heart failure. His memory is revered by all his fellow-worshippers. On the day of the funeral his minister paid his sincere respect and esteem to his old and dear friend, with whom he had been acquainted for upwards of 26 years. During that length of time he was one among the first to receive his minister with a cordial measure of sympathy and goodwill which was never broken until the day of his death. Much sympathy is extended to the members of his family, particularly his two sons and their families, his grandchildren and other relations. The funeral took place from his home, The Grove, Lisbarnett, to the New Meeting House Green, Killinchy, in the presence of a great concourse of friends and neighbours from near and far. The service in the home and at the graveside was conducted by the Rev. D. J. Williams.

The Church at Clough records with regret the passing of three of its members:—

Mrs. David Shaw.

Mrs. David Shaw of Drumaroad Mill, Castlewellan (the venerable mother of the Church Secretary), passed into the Unseen on the 23rd January, at the advanced age of 86 years. She and her late husband "sat under" Rev. David Watson, the first minister of Clough Non-Snbscribing Presbyterian Church, and was therefore one of the few surviving links of a past age when the congregation was socially and religiously "a great power in the land." In recent years Mrs. Shaw was confined to her room, but she maintained a keen interest in the outside world and affairs of the Church till the last week of her life. It was always a pleasure to visit her in her sick room and to realise how simple faith in the Fatherly Providence of God kept her cheerful and uncomplaining in her enforced retirement and in the weakness and infirmities of age. On the 26th a large company of relatives and friends met at her house to pay their last tribute of respect to her memory. Rev. J. McNeilly, B.A. (Clough Presbyterian), assisted the Rev. J. Shaw Brown in the service at the home. At the church and grave the Minister conducted the service, and on the Sabbath referred to the loss of one of its oldest members and expressed the sympathy of the Church for our respected secretary and his sisters in their sad hour of bereavement.

Mrs. Lowry, Newcastle.

We have also to record with regret the passing of Mrs. Lowry (wife of Captain W. H. K. Lowry, Wilmar, Newcastle) on Sabbath, 27th January. She was the last surviving member of a well-known and highly-respected family in Lecale—the Huttons of Leggamaddy—who belonged to our Church at Downpatrick during the memorable ministry of the Rev. Samuel Craig Nelson. On her marriage she accompanied her husband on his voyages in the Far East for more than 20 years. Her naturally shrewd and independent mind was widened by personal contact

with different nationalities and civilisations, and the Liberal religion of the Non-Subscriber enabled her to look at human society in its various aspects with less prejudice than the more orthodox. Her Unitarianism was remarkably free from sectarianism of any kind. Her judgment always put the emphasis on character rather than creed, and she had a sympathetic charity and wise tolerance towards the beliefs of others not only in the Christian Churches but in the larger world of faiths outside Christendom. When the captain retired 20 years ago they settled in Newcastle. The nearest Non-Subscribing Church was a distance of about seven miles away, but distance did not prevent them from attaching themselves to the order of churches to which they both belonged. The village Church at Clough was much encouraged by their presence at public worship on the Sabbath Day and greatly helped by their generous financial support. On a memorable Sabbath morning when the Five Year Plan was established to raise £1,000, Mr. and Mrs. Lowry put their heads together and mutually agreed to give £100 in five yearly instalments of £20—an example of special generosity which had its effect in stimulating the others to do their best. And now she has gone from the little religious fellowship where she was loved and respected into that larger fellowship in the Beyond, but her gracious presence, her kindly help, and her friendly word and smile still remain with us as a sacred memory and inspiration. The sympathy of the Church is with him who is left in his sore trial of separation after 43 years of wedded bliss. May he in his loneliness feel assured that the departed has found a better life and a more perfect rest in God, an everlasting Refuge and Home. The interment took place on the 30th January at Clough. The Rev. J. Keers (Presbyterian Minister at Newcastle) and the Rev. J. Dare Davies (Moneyrea) conducted the service at the home, and the Rev. J. Shaw Brown the service at the church and the grave in the presence of a large and representative company of relatives and friends from Belfast and County Down.

Miss Nellie Casement.

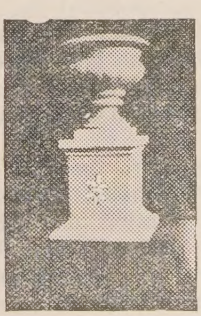
We have also to record with regret the death of our youngest member—Miss Nellie Casement, Naghan—at the early age of 22. She was brought up in our Sunday School, and when she removed to a situation with Dr. Hamilton at Ballynahinch, she still kept her love for the Church of her childhood. The Minister was touched by her simple loyalty and devotion when she came of her own free-will and desire to ask that she might take Communion with us at our half-yearly Communion. The sympathy of the Church is with the parents and family in their great sorrow and bereavement.

Mr. James L. Chambers.

The sudden death on February 5th, of James L. Chambers, Ballee, gave a great shock, not only to his near friends but to the whole countryside. Two days before he passed away, he presided over a meeting of the congregation quite cheerily. Mr. Bibby referred to the sad event. "Our respected friend has gone to his rest free from the tedium of a long endurance of pain. The memory of our friend has passed into the great multitude of the departed; but it will be a lasting consolation to his widow and two sons to learn how much his solid worth was appreciated. Most of you knew him in daily life—a kind obliging and good hearted man: many of us knew him in Church life as a most regular worshipper, and a willing and generous helper.

When I first knew him, he was about to leave school here, and my growing opinion of him was of a very high order: both in principle, honour and sterling character—correct in all his dealings. He had the qualities of kindliness and friendliness. Free from affectation or pretence, he was natural and practical, a true christian and good man.

A man with a breadth and moderation of view that is characteristic of wise and sagacious men. He has now passed away, and we extend to the sorrowing friends, the expression of our most sincere condolence on the death of one who was very dear to them and respected and honoured by all who knew him."



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REPORTS.

All Soul's, Belfast.

In connection with the annual Mission Services on 3rd March, the Rev. Wm. Eakin will preach in the morning, and the Rev. H. J. Rossington, M.A., B.D., of Birmingham, in the evening.

Nearly £6 was added to the funds as the result of the local Women's League Bridge Drive in Rosemary Hall on 16th January. The local branch during last year contributed £100 to the Church funds, £10 to various charities, and parcels of warm clothing to the Society for the care of the Destitute Sick and the Society for Providing Nurses for the Sick Poor.

First Presbyterian Church, Belfast.

On Thursday night, February 7th, the Junior Section of the Rosemary St. Dramatic Society gave an entertainment in the Central Hall, which was crowded for the occasion, The programme opened with a fairy play done by the younger children and entitled, "The Green Dwarf," and they acquitted themselves better even than in former efforts, winning spontaneous applause. The special costumes made a picturesque and pleasing scene. Recitations were given by Mildred and Harold McCafferty, who are to be complimented on the clearness and distinctness of their diction. They should go far as elocutionists. Eileen Moore again showed remarkable talent and promise as a violinist, while the dancing of Peggy Elms and Willie Matthews was delightful. The two action songs, "Rag Dolls" and "Mister Golliwog," took well, the latter being prettily presented and the former, with the masks used, being irresistably comical.

Then came a school play, "The Cricket Match." Celia Green, Helen Dale, Nellie Spence, Nellie McCullough, as schoolgirls, plotted with great gusto and complete success against the stern schoolmistress, Winnie Nesbitt, and her more human partner, Peggy Nesbitt, to get to the cricket match, by securing with threats and bribery the help of the cook, Lily Smith, and the maid, May Robinson. Plenty of life was put into the playing by typical schoolgirls.

The programme finished with the tuneful and pretty "Night Song." The effects were enhanced by the stage lighting done by members of the Senior Society, while the accompaniments were in the skilful and sympathetic hands of Mrs. W. Newman and Miss Jean Newman, and also Mrs. Moore for the violin solos. Altogether Miss Nan Newman and Miss McKelvey, who did the training of the Juniors and the production, are to be congratulated on the excellent result of their efforts, giving a much enjoyed evening to the large audience, apart from the real benefit to the members of the Junior Society themselves.

The Senior Society will present a three-act play, "Further Outlook Unsettled," in the Central Hall on the 28th and 29th March.

Mountpottinger.

The annual Sunday School Party and Prize-giving took place on Friday, January 25th, when, notwithstanding rather unpleasant climatic conditions, there was an excellent muster of scholars at the tea table.

This important detail having been disposed of, the Minister, in his capacity as chairman, introduced to the audience a number of artistes from the scholars' ranks, and these contributed to a quite interesting programme, since it showed that there was a variety of talent hidden in our midst.

Elocution is a firm favourite with young people, and it is not therefore surprising that we should have been favoured with recitations from both boys and girls, the following giving us of their best—Ethel and Daisy Treacey, Nora Johnston, Ellen Catherwood, Audrey, Rhoda and Maureen Kirkpatrick, Joan McCullough, Robt. Linton, Wallace Russell, Harry and Eddie Gardiner.

Songs were rendered by Marjorie Patty, Bina Millen and Willie Watters, the accompanists being Miss M. Forrest and Lewis Watters. The latter also played duets in company with Mina Keith, whilst Ernest Beattie contributed pianoforte solos.

The attendance prizes were distributed by Mrs. J. H. Ewbank, who gave some sound advice to the recipients thereof. Expressing the opinion that the elder scholars should make a regular habit of being in church at least once each Sunday, she offered a little encouragement to them by promising a prize each for the boy and girl who by December 31st had the highest marks in the Register that Miss K. Forrest would keep for the purpose.

Newry: A Popular Appointment.

At a recent meeting of the Trustees of the Quinn Charity, Rev. John McCleery, B.A., S.T.M. was elected Clerk in succession to the late Rev. George J. Slipper. His myraid friends and admirers will be delighted to learn of this important appointment for Mr.

McCleery, who is a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Theology. He was installed to the oversight of the Newry and Warrenpoint N.S.P. Churches on 12th September last, and the congregations of both churches have increased considerably since his advent to Newry. His latest innovations are a social hour after the evening service and the formation of a dramatic club, which produced three plays recently in a very creditable manner. Mr. McCleery is a member of the Boy Scout Association, and is a real live wire. He can be depended upon to deal with all matters in connection with this benevolent institution without fear, favour or affection. The clerical work was carried out in a most satisfactory manner by Mr. C. Warnock during the transitional period—*Newry Telegraph.*

Dromore

A congregational re-union in connection with this Church was held in the Rampart Street Schoolroom on Thursday evening, 7th February.

There was a large attendance of members of the congregation and friends, the building being packed to capacity.

Tea was served at 7-30 by ladies of the congregation, assisted by a willing band of stewards.

After tea the chair was taken by Rev. Alfred Davison, minister of the congregation, who said that his first duty was to express the pleasure he felt in taking the chair and in seeing such a fine gathering of members. He hoped they would all have a very happy evening. At any rate they seemed to have made a good start. Occasions of this kind were often held in bygone years, and many members who were present to-night would remember what fun they were. He could not but feel that it was a good thing to meet together in this way, and thus recapture something of the friendliness and good spirit so characteristic of the old-time soirees. Before proceeding with the programme, Mr. C. M. Baxter was going to tell something about the list which was opened last year. May I say, added Rev. Mr. Davison, how pleased I was when I heard how quickly and generously you responded. It is always a good thing to be able to stand on one's own feet, and when a congregation is prepared to do that, meeting its financial obligation by direct method and other than by sales of work and bazaars, it is doing a really fine thing, and one worthy of all praise.

Mr. C. M. Baxter, J.P., said that it gave him the greatest pleasure to comply with Mr. Davison's request. About a year ago the Committee had under consideration the debt due for the necessary repairs which had been carried out to the Church property and manse. The congregation had spent considerable sums in this way in recent years, but it was decided to make a special appeal to all members rather than resort to outside appeals or to a bazaar or sale of work. This appeal was accordingly sent to every member of the congregation, and a special subscription list was opened under the supervision of the treasurer (Mr. Edmund Boal), who had given time and trouble ungrudgingly to the work. Continuing, Mr. Baxter said that he was happy to say that the appeal had met with a most generous and practically universal response. Within a very short time a sum sufficient to wipe off the deficit had been not only promised but actually paid, so that the fund now stood at the sum of £125. Mr. Baxter said that he considered the result of the appeal most gratifying, and he wished to thank all who had contributed to the fund.

In conclusion, he urged on all younger members of the congregation to take more advantage than hitherto of the envelope system for payment of stipend. This system ensured regular payments, and small regular payments were better than larger sums given at uncertain intervals or only as the result of a special appeal. Like all other Churches, they were faced with the serious problem of a reduction in annual income owing to loss of interest on investments. If those who had so generously responded to this appeal would only keep up one-fourth of the amount annually in the future it would suffice to keep their property in perfect order and their Church clear of all debt. (Applause).

On the motion of Mr. Davison a vote of thanks to Mr. Baxter and Mr. Boal was carried by acclamation.

An entertaining programme, for which Mr. Fred Russell, Church organist, was responsible, was then contributed by a number of Belfast artistes.

Women's League.

Under the auspices of the City Branches, a lantern lecture was given in the Central Hall, Rosemary Street, on Wednesday, 20th February, by R. J. Welch, M.Sc., M.R.Y.A. There was a good attendance.

The Quarterly Meeting of the Ulster District was held at Comber on Tuesday, January 15th, and was coincidental with the tenth anniversary of the formation of the Comber branch. The service at 2-30 p.m.

took the form of a Memorial Service to the late Miss E. Andrews, Secretary of the Ulster District, and five other members, all of whom were foundation members and passed away during recent years. Two beautiful flower vases were presented to the church in their memory by fellow members. A helpful and inspiring sermon was preached by the Rev. J. Glynne Davies, who paid tribute to these women for their helpfulness to the church and himself. The solo, "O rest in the Lord," was beautifully sung by Mrs. Murphy, and Mrs. J. M. Andrews presided at the organ. A large number of members from branches in Down and Antrim were present, Larne and district sent twenty-five members. Tea was served in the schoolroom, after which Miss Stevenson from Headquarters, London, gave a most interesting talk on her recent visit to the Women's League Conference at Copenhagen. Miss Stevenson brought a number of fine photographs, conference hymn books printed in several languages, etc., which were of great interest to those members who had time to peruse them. The talk was so vivid that one could almost see the places and events without the aid of the printed page. A box of Irish linen handkerchiefs was presented to Miss Stevenson before she commenced her talk, as a memento of her visit to the Ulster District League.

Mountpottinger Women's League.

On the 28th January, a very entertaing talk was given by Mrs. Newman, on her holiday in the South of Ireland. She related many interesting and humorous incidents of the tour which occupied ten days, and from all that Mrs. Newman had to tell it must have been a very full and enjoyable programme. The success of the holiday was evidently due to the congenial company, and good management of the touring agent. The Talk was so graphically described that we all imagined we were travelling over the ground with Mrs. Newman. Mrs. Ewbank presided and expressed the gratitude of herself and members for the very enjoyable evening Mrs. Newman had given us. R.F.

Holywood Women's League.

This society held two very interesting meetings in January and February. At the former we had a most comprehensive talk on a recent visit to America by Miss Mary Gardiner, M.A. At the latter Miss O. Neill told us of a recent cruise that she went to Iceland. Both meetings were well attended by a most appreciative audience. J.M.H.

Crumlin—Our Grand Old Man, Mr. William Hunter, celebrated his eighty-sixth birthday on the First of February. We rejoice that he enjoys excellent health and displays a keen interest in the world near and far, which has always been his practice and his recipe for a happy life. Incidentally he is to this day a strong admirer of the original G.O.M. of British Statesmen. The youngest member of the congregation was born on the Sixteenth of January and baptised on the Twelfth of February by the Minister. She is Annie, only daughter and seventh child of the Sexton and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. William Gibb. ——— G.P.J.

Ballycarry—The Local Branch of the Women's League, held their Anniversary meeting on Thursday, February 7 The League has now entered on its sixth year. The meeting took place in a room of the church building which was used for the first time, being recently re-constructed and fitted out and installed with electric light and with facilities for providing tea and refreshments to its members. There was a very good attendance, the president, Miss Service, being in the chair. The League in Ballycarry has a very full programme before it for the year's activities. Great credit is due the members for their enthusiasm in providing this room for its meetings. ———

Moneyrea—The well-known comedy, "Professor Tim," was performed by the Dramatic Society in the Lyttle Memorial School on 1st and 2nd Feb. The cast was—Professor Tim, Jas. Frame; Mrs. Scally, Miss R. Kennedy; John Scally, James Maxwell; Mr. Kilroy, Edward Fisher; Mrs. Kilroy, Miss M. McFarland; Joseph Kilroy, Robert Hill; Hugh O'Cahan, F. Maxwell; Peggy Scally, Miss M. Hogg; Moll Flanagan, Miss M. Strain; Paddy, the groom, R. Fisher; Mr. Alison, the auctioneer, Albert Fisher. The crowded audience on both nights applauded the scenes and hits of the players, who deserve high praise for their excellent work. The ladies of the congregation very kindly supplied tea for the players after each performance.

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REVIEWS.

The Roman Church and the Modern Man, by H. D. A. Major, D.D., Principal of Ripon Hall, Oxford. Eyre & Spottiswoode. 5/-.

This book, which is an examination of the claims of Rome at the bar of history and fact, should be read by all who want in short but scholarly form, a refutation of a Church which claims to be the only true Church and denies all liberty of judgment to the individual. Dr. Major has no desire to stir up bitter feeling, he would fain avoid religious controversy ; he can acknowledge the glorious company of saints who have been nurtured in the Roman Communion, but he is deeply stirred by the glaring evils and fatal dangers of the Roman Ecclesiastical system in past history and at the present day. Romanism is still a power, it cherishes the ambition of becoming the Universal Church, and to that aim, pursued with inveterate consistency and determination, it subordinates all other interests and considerations. Its temper is static, its policy obstructive, in the field of intellect, ethics and social reform. Dr. Major sees in it the steady ending of the freedom and progress of mankind in this life, throwing all its immense weight and authority into the scale of inert conservatism and hopeless reaction. It is an organisation, a tyranny, well calculated to drill and discipline the masses of men, but without any vocation of leadership in the human crusade for a new heaven and a new earth. How could it be otherwise with an institution which claims infallibility in matters of belief and morals, and an authority which stamps out independent and unorthodox thinking, wherever its power runs.

Dr. Major in a chapter on "The Lure of Rome" sets forth its various attractions, but some of them are hollow, and the main one, that of telling its adherents exactly what to believe and do, appeals to the weak and timorous, who are many, but involves the abdication of one's privileges and responsibilities as a rational moral being. The Roman Church in mediaeval times may have inspired great art, but it cannot be said to do so to-day, for art has developed independence and new sources of inspiration. While as for the plea that it is the most ancient Church of Christendom, Dr. Major holds that the Church of England can claim to be the Catholic Church of the land, divested at the Reformation of some of its Roman corruptions and perversions. He shows that Roman Catholic cultus has incorporated many elements of Paganism, and that there is no ground in the New Testament, in reason, or in experience for belief in the miracle of transubstantiation which lies at the heart of the doctrine of the Mass, a ceremony which therefore is not to be distinguished from idolatry.

With regard to the dogma of the infallibility of the Pope, the author adduces evidence to show that it was not claimed, certainly not accepted, until comparatively modern times. There are instances of Popes denouncing other Popes as heretical, e g., Pope Honorius was pronounced a heretic by the Sixth General Council. Pope Liberius subscribed an Arian Creed. The General Council of Constance (1414-1418) formally denied Papal infallibility (p. 61), and the Roman Catholics of England in 1788 declared "We acknowledge no infallibility in the Pope." The dogma was defined by the Vatican Council in 1870 and carried with the help of bishops of petty Italian Sees "in opposition to the most influential bishops and theologians in the Roman Church (p. 49). Papal infallibility is contradicted by the facts of history and is, says Dr. Coulton, the noted historian, "demonstratably untrue." Dogmas however have a way of persisting even when all historical evidence and reason are against them, and that not only in the Church of Rome.

Dr. Major also controverts the claim of Papal Supremacy as based on Christ's word to Peter about building His Church on "this rock." The passage is very doubtful ; moreover there is no evidence that the Apostle Peter was ever Bishop of Rome ; that office came into being later, and for a period its occupants did not exercise monarchial rights over the Christian Church generally.

The book is written boldly and clearly for ordinary readers, and its main theses are not likely to be successfully controverted. We can recognise the sincerity and goodness of Roman Catholics, while regarding the Roman ecclesiastical system as a menace.

R.N.C.

I was a Pagan, by V. C. Kitchen. Hodder and Stoughton, 1934. 5/- net.

We reviewed last year "The Group Movement" by the Rt. Rev. Dr. H. H. Henson, Bishop of Durham. The Bishop's criticism was constructive and not destructive, and helpful to all concerned. The Bishop stated that in view of the fact, that "a rift had

opened between the Church and the modern world," the thorough-going Christianity of the Groupists strikes home to many consciences. In the book before us, we have a powerful story of a man of the world, well educated, who had passed through universities, and had become highly successful financially in the newspaper world, and who went the pace "alcohol was not only necessary to the stability of society but to its uplift," but the Group Movement made him a changed man. Edison had said "that we had gone ahead about as far as we could materially without taking time to catch up spiritually," another writer declared "Spiritual power in the twentieth century is as dormant as was electrical power and the next great discoveries would be in the domain of the Spiritual." The Author sees only one solution to the perplexing social and political problems, daily becoming more acute, and that is GOD, and gives examples of the difference the power of God can make:—a third of Westminster Parliament crowding out two committee rooms to hear Group speakers. The World Economic Conference had just closed when a gathering took place attended by 5,000 people from more than forty nations. A reporter said "It was because it missed this the Conference failed." It was said at a group luncheon on the Continent, "if seven European Statesmen could be changed, it would change the entire political and economic history of the world." There is much in the book, so far as its theological wording is concerned, that does not appeal to us, all the same, it makes belief in God intensely practical.

A Golden Treasury of the Bible. Selected and edited by Mortimer Rowe, B.A., with the assistance of Herbert M'Lachlan, M.A., D.D., Dorothy Tarrant, M.A., Ph.D., 1934. Lindsey Press. 7/6.

We have already drawn attention to this very important book, and would again venture to do so, urging its purchase wherever possible, and asking for it a place in Church libraries or wherever it is possible to get it read by our members. By right it ought to be in every household in our Church. We are informed that the book is going extraordinarily well, considering the address from which it emanates. The religious press has given it a courteous welcome, not one of the reviews makes any comment of the kind one might be forgiven for expecting from orthodox reviewers of a publication for which Unitarians are responsible. Exceedingly interesting are the selections from the Apocrypha, and one wonders why passages such as these should have been left out of "Holy Scripture," which prove their own inspiration, by their power to inspire. But that was not the test the Reformers used. The first three Gospels are used for a consecutive account of the words and deeds of Jesus, the Gospel of Mark being the framework upon which the structure is built. John, being a Gospel of another order, is presented separately. The book can be seen at the Depository, and readers calling there should ask to see it. Personal inspection will be the best recommendation. J. B.

When tempted to indulge in the sinful extravagance which may lead into debt and dishonesty, save us and help us, O Lord.—C. of E. Litany.

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